

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PONTA 00330 060416Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 DHA-05 MCT-01 /078 W
-----109159 060419Z /17

P 060100Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1764
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
COMUSFORAZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0330

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO
SUBJECT: TWO ARRESTED IN ROBBERY ATTEMPT FOLLOWING BOMBINGS

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0329

1. TWO BOMBS WERE SET OFF IN PONTA DELGADA ON THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 3, CAUSING NO INJURIES AND MINOR DAMAGE. THE FIRST BLAST WENT OFF IN THE FRONT OF THE HOME OF DR. JOSE PAIM DE BRUGES ESTRELA REGO, A WELL KNOWN CONSERVATIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORTER OF FLA. THE SECOND CAUSED SOME DAMAGE TO A PARKED CAR BELONGING TO THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC. EARLY SUNDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 4, THREE HOURS AFTER THE SECOND EXPLOSION, TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED ATTEMPTING TO BURGLARIZE THE SAFE OF A MILK PROCESSING PLANT IN PONTA DELGADA. ONE OF THOSE ARRESTED, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER MANUEL ALFREDO MELO BENTO, IS THE BROTHER OF A PROMINENT FLA OFFICIAL AND BROTHER IN LAW OF FLA LEADER JOSE DE ALMEIDA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY JOAO(?) CORREIA, TAXI DRIVER AND REPORTED FLA MEMBER. THOUGH THE TWO WERE REPORTEDLY ARMED AT THE TIME OF CAPTURE, THE ONLY SHOTS WERE FIRED BY POLICE AS THEY PUMPED FOUR ROUNDS INTO A LOCKED DOOR TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE INTRUDERS.

2. COMMENT: DESPITE MELO BENTO'S RELATION TO FLA LEADERS, IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBLE BUT NOT CERTAIN HE WAS ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF FLA. HOWEVER, IN SOME CIRCLES MELO BENTO HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING SOMEWHAT OF A KOOK WHO COULD HAVE BEEN IN THE PAY OF SOMEONE ELSE OR ACTING ON HIS OWN. IF FLA WAS BEHIND THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 3 AND 4, THEY MARKED THE FIRST ACTS OF FLA VIOLENCE IN SEVERAL MONTHS AND COULD INDICATE THAT LOCAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE ORGANIZATION IS BEGINNING TO DRY UP.

MACK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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